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Superintendent of Schools

DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 1, 2019

Good afternoon everyone. I am Dr. Sal Pascarella, Superintendent of Schools for Danbury, which is an Alliance School District.

I respectfully submit my comments on HB-7150 and express my support for the continuation of the ECS formula. A tremendous challenge for Urban districts like Danbury, which is growing 2% per year, is our ability to rely on a consistent method for calculating resources rather than a block grant with no real criteria for the amount of money being allocated to the district. With that said it is imperative that (SNAP) poverty, ELL numbers and special education are indexes that the State utilizes in its calculation to determine a district's need.

Finally, as the State determines its capacity to support the many financial aspects of this Bill, through municipal TRB chargeback, capping the special education excess cost grant, and Bilingual, it makes no logical sense to require districts to increase their graduation requirements for 21 to 25. In the case of Danbury, we predict it will cost us between \$750,000 to \$900,000, which becomes a unfunded mandate with minor education benefits. It severely limits student's ability to participate in internships and industry cooperative job placement programs.

I thank you for your consideration of my recommendations.

Respectfully,
Dr. Sal Pascarella